



SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 28, 2011

The Honorable Valerie Ervin
President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Council President Ervin:

We are writing to you to share a few thoughts as the council evaluates and makes recommendations on the County Executive's proposed FY 2012 County Budget.

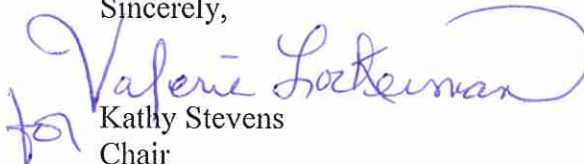
First, we are very pleased to see that increased funds have been designated to fund and support additional police support for Downtown Silver Spring. We think this additional support is crucial to the vitality of our community and urge the council to support this proposal. We thank you for your continued support of Silver Spring.

Second, we are concerned about funding cuts made to the library system, specifically as they relate to the Silver Spring community. The downgrading of the Silver Spring library, coupled with staffing cuts to that facility and the one in Long Branch, would result in less educational opportunities and computer access for some of the most economically vulnerable in our county.

Third, we understand the complexities of the budgeting process this year and the structural issues that must be addressed. The challenges that you and your colleagues face both in the short and long term are daunting. The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board would like to continue to be involved in addressing these challenges through dialogue with you and our community. This function will become even more important with the reduced staff at the county's regional services centers.

We look forward to working with you to address the ongoing challenges in our community.

Sincerely,


Kathy Stevens
Chair

Council President Valerie Ervin

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cc:

County Executive Isiah Leggett

Roger Berliner, Councilmember

Nancy Floreen, Councilmember

George Leventhal, Councilmember

Hans Riemer, Councilmember

Craig Rice, Councilmember

Marc Elrich, Councilmember

Nancy Navarro, Councilmember

Phil Andrews, Councilmember